

We need a lot more people to look like the Women's Tennis Association, not to look like the NBA.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

REMEMBERING GENERAL RAY ODIERNO

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to GEN Raymond Odierno, one of the greatest commanders of his, or any other, generation of American military leaders.

Ray served the Army and the Nation with great distinction. He attended West Point, and following graduation, he went on to serve nearly 40 years in the Army, retiring as a four-star general.

Ray's service took him around the world, from Germany and Albania to Kuwait and Iraq. He reached the heights of his career as the commander of all coalition forces in Iraq and a tenure as the 38th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

Throughout his distinguished career, Ray was an inspirational force to the men and women he commanded and the leaders he advised. His character, professional skills, and abiding love and respect for those around him made him a preeminent soldier. His steadfast loyalty and commitment to his fellow soldiers and veterans was unwavering.

I was privileged to have worked extensively with Ray. His courageous leadership in so many demanding jobs leaves me with great admiration and gratitude.

We were both West Pointers and both had the privilege of serving in the Army, so we shared many things in common.

I recall first meeting Ray in Iraq when he commanded the 4th Infantry Division. I was immediately struck by his presence, his keen insight, and the mutual and profound respect he shared with his troops. His example of selfless service, dedication to his mission and his soldiers, together with his personal integrity and decency, sustained and inspired all who served with him.

I also had the privilege of working closely with him while he served as Chief of Staff of the Army. He proved an innovative and resourceful leader who continued to focus on soldiers and their families as he maintained an Army on the most robust deployment schedule in our lifetime.

Ray's love for his country was surpassed only by his love of family—his wonderful wife Linda and their three children; Tony, Katie, and Mike; and their beautiful grandchildren.

I offer the Odierno family my deepest condolences on his passing and thank them for sharing Ray with us for so many years.

The Odierno family's military tradition runs deep and strong. Ray's father was an Army sergeant in World War II. And his son, retired Army Captain Tony Odierno, also graduated from West Point. Tony served with distinction in Iraq before he was wounded there and came home and found other

ways to serve. I know that legacy of service will continue and manifest itself in many different ways.

Ray Odierno was a powerful, inspiring person. He dedicated his life's work to serving others, and his was a life well-lived. He will be missed by all who have had the privilege to know him and to serve with him.

I am proud to honor the legacy of GEN Ray Odierno, and I know the Members of the Senate will join me in recognizing the incredible contributions he made for our Nation.

And in words familiar to all West Pointers:

And when our work is done,  
Our course on earth is run,  
May it be said, "Well done; be thou at peace."

GEN Raymond Odierno, well done. Be thou at peace.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UKRAINE

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, news from this morning that 50 so-called battalion tactical groups have been sent to the Ukraine border by President Vladimir Putin—reports in American newspapers suggest that over the last several days there has been an increased amount of movement in Russian military assets to the Ukraine border.

This is a crisis that is deepening. There remains a diplomatic off-ramp, but that off-ramp only exists if Vladimir Putin sees the United States and its allies, especially those in Europe, united in our desire to support Ukraine in its time of need with the kind of assets they will need to defend themselves, but also with a commitment to levy unprecedented sanctions on Russia, long-lasting, deep sanctions, if they go forward with an incursion deeper into Ukraine than Russia already is.

But, right now, as we speak on the Senate floor, a small handful of Senate Republicans are blocking the key diplomatic personnel that would be able to unite U.S. policy with Europe around Russia's threatened invasion of Ukraine. And so I hear a lot of really strong-sounding press statements from many of my Republican colleagues, often the exact same Republican colleagues who are blocking these nominees, about how Joe Biden needs to stand strong for Ukraine, while, at the same time, they are down here on the floor denying President Biden the personnel that he needs in order to enact a policy that can save Ukraine from disaster—the Assistant Secretary for International Organizations, the U.S.

Representative to the EU, the U.S. Representative to OECD, numerous Ambassadors to European countries, including our Ambassador to France, France being one of the key nations that will help orchestrate a policy of cohesion amongst European nations with respect to the crisis in Ukraine.

And so everybody sees what is going on here. Not all of my Republican colleagues, but a small handful of my Republican colleagues, are setting the President up, raising expectations about what he should be able to do to save Ukraine but then denying him the personnel to get it done.

And I understand that, you know, the refrain from my Republican colleagues is, well, you know, Senator SCHUMER should just file cloture. They know how this works. For cloture, because of our current rules, the whole process takes days. We have pages full of nominees that we have to do. We wouldn't be able to conduct any other business. The Senate has never run like this.

When the Senate has had qualified nominees like Jack Markell, Mark Gitenstein, Denise Bauer in front of it, it has never required days of debate, cloture motions, in order to get key personnel, especially at times of need right now.

I hope we get an agreement to move nominees, but, frankly, time is running short for Ukraine. Time is running short for the Ukrainian people, and my Republican colleagues—the handful that are blocking these nominees—better decide whether they are interested in scoring political points or whether they are interested in standing up for the security of the United States and the security of the Ukrainian people.

REMEMBERING EDITH PRAGUE

Madam President, when they made Edith Prague, who died Thursday at the age of 96, they broke the mold. I am confident of this because in my 48 years on this Earth, I have never, ever met another person like her.

I knew Edith Prague as my colleague in the Connecticut State Senate, where she served from 1994 to 2012, retiring as the oldest member of that chamber at age 86. She was a friend of mine and a mentor. She modeled a form of public service for me that I will be eternally grateful for. There was no one in Connecticut public life as persistent, as dogged, as forceful, as Edith Prague.

She woke up every day thinking about the plight of workers, the poor, and the elderly. She had an acute sense of the injustice done to those who labored in difficult jobs, those making poverty wages, and those people who were living on fixed incomes.

And when she believed that a cause was right, she would not back down. In 1991, Governor Lowell Weicker hired her to be his commissioner of aging, and then, a year later, he fired her because when he told her that she needed to fold her agency into a bigger department to save money, she refused.

When she was elected to the State senate, she was a tireless worker, a